

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9, 11 and 13 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, and 8 are independent claims.

**Formal Matters**

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to list Kemp et al. (US 6,253,815) on a Notice of Cited References form.

**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 3-6, 8, 9,<sup>1</sup> 11, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

**Claim 3**

With respect to independent claim 3, the Examiner asserts that the claim language is inconsistent because the claim recite both that the protruding portions *include at least one of a character and a mark* and also that each of the protruding portions *forms a character*. In response, Applicant has deleted the recitations regarding “at least one of a character and a mark” from claim 3.

**Claim 8**

With respect to independent claim 8, the Examiner asserts that the recitation regarding the tops and bottoms of the joined portion is unclear and has suggested that the claim be amended so that the tops and bottoms of the joined portion is recited in a manner similar to the

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<sup>1</sup> It appears that the rejection of dependent claim 9 is erroneous because claim 9 does not depend from claim 3 or claim 8.

recitations regarding the decorative portion. In response, Applicant has amended independent claim 8 to recite a high decorative portion including serrations.

In view of these amendments, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103**

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Vinzina (US D204585).

Claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Baker (US 6,053,228).

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vinzina or Baker, and further in view of JP 2000-255224 and optionally Ratliff, Jr. (US 5,807,446).

**Claim 1**

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite that the decorative portion includes serrations, tops of the serrations protruding higher than bottoms of the serrations, and that the joined portion that joins one of the protruding portions to the decorative portion *is higher than the bottoms of the serrations*. Claim 1 supported at least to the embodiments shown in FIGS. 3, 6, 9 and 10. For example, in FIG. 3, the joined portion 19 is higher than the bottoms of the serrations 15.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 1 is patentable at least because neither Baker (US 6,053,228) nor Vinzina (US D204585) teaches or suggests all of the recitations of the amended claim.

The “joined portion” that joins one of the protruding portions to the decorative portion including the serrations in Vinzina at FIG. 5 *is not higher* than the bottoms of the serrations. Instead, the unlabeled joined portion is that same height as the bottoms of the serrations.

Moreover, the “joined portion” that joins one of the protruding portions 46 of Baker to the decorative portion 100 including the serrations in FIG. 9 *is not higher* than the bottoms of the serrations. Instead, the “joined portion” in each of these references is also provided at the same height as the bottoms of the serrations.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is patentable.

### **Claim 3**

Applicant has also amended independent claim 3, among other things, to recite that the decorative portion includes serrations, tops of the serrations protruding higher than bottoms of the serrations, and that the joined portion that joins one of the protruding portions to the decorative portion *is higher than the bottoms of the serrations*.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 3 is patentable at least because Baker does not teach or suggest all of the recitations of the amended claim, as discussed above with respect to claim 1.

### **Claim 8**

Applicant has also amended independent claim 8 to recite that the decorative portion includes serrations, tops of the serrations protruding higher than bottoms of the serrations, a high decorative portion, including serrations, that is provided between the protruding portions, and that *a joined portion joining the one of the protruding portions to the high decorative portion is*

*higher than the bottoms of the serrations of the decorative portion.* This claim is supported at least by the exemplary embodiment shown in FIG. 6.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 8 is patentable at least because Baker does not teach or suggest all of the recitations of the amended claim.

There is no disclosure in Baker that the “joined portion” that joins one of the protruding portions 46 to the high decorative portion 34 between the protruding portions in FIG. 5 of Baker is *higher* than the bottoms of the serrations. Again, the “joined portion” is provided at the same height as the bottoms of the serrations.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 8 is patentable.

#### **Dependent Claims**

Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2, 4-7, 9, 11 and 13 are patentable at least because of their dependency from claim 1 or claim 3.

In addition, with respect to dependent claims 5 and 6, neither JP 2000-255224 nor optionally Ratliff, Jr., which the Examiner cites as showing a round connection between portions, do not make up for the deficiencies in Vinzina and Baker discussed above.

#### **Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
Application No.: 10/500,191

Attorney Docket No.: Q82273

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/John M. Bird/

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John M. Bird  
Registration No. 46,027

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: September 16, 2008